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ABSTRACT

This book offers critical perspective on the complex dynamics of politics, class, gender, power, race, and ethnicity in Project Head Start. Moving beyond the literature on Head Start's effects on children's achievement, the volume considers how the program has operated with families, in communities, and with other institutions. Chapters address historical background, parent involvement and governance, cultural diversity, and relationships with other institutions. Following an introduction, the book's chapters are: (1) "A Lost Legacy: Head Start's Origins in Community Action" (Kathryn R. Kuntz); (2) "The Origins of Head Start and the Two Versions of Parent Involvement: How Much Parent Participation in Early Childhood Programs and Services for Poor Children?" (Polly Greenberg); (3) "Beyond Busywork: Crafting a Powerful Role for Low-Income Mothers in Schools or Sustaining Inequalities?" (Linda Spatig, Laurel Parrott, Amy Dillon, and Kate Conrad); (4) "Parent Involvement in a Rural Head Start and the Reproduction of Class" (Roslyn Arlin Mickelson and Mary Trotter Klenz); (5) "Head Start Bilingual and Multicultural Program Services" (Patricia A. Hamilton, Katherine Hays and Henry M. Doan); (6) "High/Scope in Head Start Programs Serving Southeast Asian Immigrant and Refugee Children and Their Families: Lessons from an Ethnographic Study" (Eden Inoway-Ronnie); (7) "Family Literacy Informing Head Start: Lessons from Hmong and Latino Families" (Elizabeth P. Quintero); (8) "Reform and Empowerment: Rural Mothers and Head Start" (Lynda J. Ames and Jeanne Ellsworth); (9) "More than a Job: Reflections of a Former Head Start Staff Member" (Susan W. Geddes); (10) "Personal Growth in Head Start" (Wendy L. Kirby); (11) "Developmentalism Meets Standardized Testing: Do Low-Income Children Lose?" (Linda Spatig; Robert Bickel, Laurel Parrot, Amy Dillon, and Kate Conrad); (12) "A Bumpy Transition from Head Start of Public School: Issues of Philosophical and Managerial Continuity within the Administrative Structure of One School System" (Stacey Neuharth-Pritchett and Panayota Y. Mantzicopoulos); (13) "Inspiring Delusions: Reflections on Head Start's Enduring Popularity" (Jeanne Ellsworth); and (14) "Concluding Thoughts: Hope and Challenge: Head Start Past, Present, Future" (Jeanne Ellsworth and Lynda J. Ames). (EV)